



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia & Kings Canyon
National Parks

47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

559 565-3341 phone
559 565-3730 fax

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Jody Lyle 559 565-3703

Activity Increases on Two Lightning Fires Parks Halt Ignition on Tharp's Prescribed Fire

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are currently managing 13 small *fire use projects*. These lightning-caused fires are allowed to spread naturally to improve forest conditions. Fire managers closely monitor each fire to observe behavior and spread. The following two fires showed recent increased activity:

Williams Fire (Kings Canyon National Park) – The 50-acre Williams Fire is ½-mile north of Comanche Meadow. Fire monitors are currently on scene with more to arrive this weekend. Since the Williams Fire has the potential to spread outside the national park boundary, park service fire managers are working closely with their counterparts on the Sequoia National Forest. The two agencies are cooperatively managing the Williams Fire. For visitor safety, the Kanawyer Gap Trail is closed at the park boundary, but the Mitchell Peak trail remains open.

Giant Fire (Sequoia National Park) – The 1.5-acre Giant Fire is located east of the Giant Forest Museum and north of the Moro Rock Road. The Giant Fire is surrounded by previously burned areas. This past fire activity will contain the Giant Fire to the western part of Giant Forest. The recent Tharp's Prescribed Fire (described below) is also strategically located to limit the Giant Fire's spread.

Tharp's Prescribed Fire

Since August 11, fire crews have completed ignition on 227 acres (Segments A and B) of the Tharp's Prescribed Fire in Sequoia National Park. In consultation with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, ignition has been halted on this project due to a change in high elevation winds that disperse smoke. If conditions improve in the next week and resources are available, it is possible ignitions will continue on the final segment (Segment C = 257 acres).

Closures – All park roads remain open. The following three trails will be closed until further notice: the *Wolverton Cutoff Trail* between the Alta Trail and the High Sierra Trail, the *Alta Trail* between the Congress loop and the junction with the Wolverton Cutoff, and the *Trail of the Sequoias* between the Congress Loop and Log Meadow.

Would you like more information about fire? Go to www.nps.gov/seki. Click on "Current Fire Information" under *Quick Links*. You will find press releases (including this one), fire restrictions, smoke information, and the annual project list.